

INFORMANT REPORT

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1. The following troops are under the command of Sinkiang Provincial Garrison Commander SUNG Hsi-lien (宋希廉), who is a graduate of the first class of the Whampoa Military Academy:

a. The newly organized 42 Division is commanded by Sinkiang Deputy Garrison Commander, General CHAO Hsi-kuang (趙錫光), a graduate of the Yunnan Military Academy and a former student of Examination Yuan Vice President CHOU Tsung-yueh (周宗穎); CHAO acquired his posts as 42 Division Commander and Deputy Garrison Commander through the influence and assistance of General CHANG Chih-chung, present Northwest Bandit Suppression Headquarters (NWSH) Chief. The 42 Division was reorganized from the former 42 Army of YANG Te-liang (楊德亮), former commander of the 42 Army and the New 2 Army (see [REDACTED]). The newly organized 42 Division consists of two artillery regiments, three cavalry regiments and six infantry regiments--in all, about 30,000 men. The headquarters of the 42 Division is at Kashgar (Sufuhsien 75-59, 39-27) and the troops are spread out in south Sinkiang from Turfan (Tultfahsien 89-04, 42-57) southward.

b. The New 2 Division is commanded by General YEH Chi-ying (葉成英), one of SUNG Hsi-lien's men. This Division was reorganized from the former New 2 Army of YANG Te-liang and from the 78 Division of SUNG Hsi-lien. This New 2 Division consists of about 30,000 men with headquarters in Tihua (87-36, 43-48). The troops of this Division are spread out in the Tihua area and in the regions north of Turfan.

c. The 5 Cavalry Division is commanded by MA Pu-ch'ing (馬步青), elder brother of Chinghai Provincial Governor MA Pu-fang (馬步芳). This Division consists of about 15,000 men and is stationed in the Paitashan (白塔山), Hamihsien (93-27, 42-48) and Tihua administrative regions (see [REDACTED]).

d. Sinkiang Garrison Commander SUNG Hsi-lien also commands the troops of the local Peace Preservation Corps (Ti Fang Pao An Pu Tui 地方保安部隊). This Corps consists of six regiments totalling approximately 10,000 men, including those of the Han, Mohammedan, Uigur and other ethnic groups in Sinkiang. In peace time the duty of this Corps is to suppress bandits, settle disputes and carry out other functions of peace preservation. In time of war the Corps can join other regular troops in fighting the enemy.

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2. Most of the troops mentioned above are ill-equipped: they lack ammunition, especially rifle bullets; they are badly in need of medicine and medical care--one of the main reasons for both shortages is the difficulty of transportation. These troops depend on the Northwest Bandit Suppression Headquarters in Lanchow (103-41, 36-03) to supply their needs but the supply of materials in Lanchow is small and the lack of motor vehicles makes transportation of supplies very slow.

3. Under the NWBSH in Lanchow, there are the 2, 3, 4 and 20 Army Service Automobile Regiments. Each Regiment has an average of 500 trucks. At present about 1,200 of the total 2,000 trucks can be used and these only with constant repair. About 800 trucks can operate on the highway from Lanchow to Tihua at the same time. All the trucks belonging to the NWBSH are under the control and disposition of NWBSH Deputy Chief T'AO Shih-yao (毛士耀), concurrently Acting Chief of Staff of NWBSH since the resignation of YANG Te-liang in April 1948. In addition to the trucks mentioned above, there are about 800 trucks in various stages of disrepair which are owned privately by elements of the troops (paragraph 1). The military transportation situation is further complicated by a lack of qualified mechanics, a serious shortage of spare parts and the high price of gasoline--gasoline in Lanchow is two and a half times the present price in Shanghai which is CMC\$245,000 per gallon. During April 1948 the Central Government sent 500 new trucks for the use of military and political organizations in the Northwest; however, this number is considerably inadequate because, for example, the newly organized 42 Division will get only 35 of the 500 new trucks.

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